

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1961)

Heft: 1390

Artikel: All to Wimbledon!

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690508>

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (*Chairman*), O. F. BOEHRINGER, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. KUNZ, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

EDITED BY P. HOFSTETTER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 47. No. 1390

FRIDAY, 28th JULY, 1961

PRICE 11D.

ALL TO WIMBLEDON!



Next Tuesday evening, the Swiss people of London and its suburbs will meet once again at Wimbledon Town Hall to celebrate National Day. Let us hope they will be as numerous as ever!

We believe that it is not much to ask to gather together, once a year, and devote our memory to our beloved homeland. Whether in London, Vancouver or Singapore, the Swiss know very well they would be nothing without the country to which they owe everything. Let us also remember that, as Charles Maurras once said, "Of all human liberties the most precious is the independence of the Fatherland".

Last year, Mr. Stauffer wrote in these columns — "Patriotism is the vital condition of national permanence; no government is safe unless it is protected by the goodwill of the people; patriotism means: one country, one constitution, one destiny." This is just as true to-day as it was twelve months ago. Neither patriotism nor nationalism are outdated ideas.

But, to exist, a country must have a people with faith and trust in it, whether these people be near or far from their homeland. And we feel that Switzerland is still a very lively country, faithfully cherished by all its citizens, wherever they are. We are sure that, next Tuesday evening, at the sight of the national flag, in our hearts each and every one of us will be carried away by a strong feeling of nostalgia.

P.H.